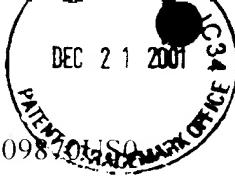


DOCKET NO.: 20987US0



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF:

Mikhail M. GUSYATINER ET AL : GROUP ART UNIT: 1651

SERIAL NO.: 09/886,254 :

FILED: JUNE 22, 2001 : EXAMINER: LILLING

FOR: L-ARGININE PRODUCING ESCHERICHIA COLI AND METHOD OF
PRODUCING L-ARGININE

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION

REQUIREMENT

In response to the Official Action dated November 26, 2001, Applicants elect, with traverse, Group I, Claims 1-2. In addition, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

A¹ 4. (Amended) A method of producing arginine comprising the steps of cultivating *E.coli* according to claim 1 in a culture medium to produce and accumulate arginine in the medium, and collecting arginine from the medium.

A² 5. (Amended) A method of producing arginine comprising the steps of cultivating *E.coli* according to claim 2 in a culture medium to produce and accumulate arginine in the medium, and collecting arginine from the medium.

6. (Amended) A method of producing arginine comprising the steps of cultivating *E.coli* according to claim 3 in a culture medium to produce and accumulate arginine in the medium, and collecting arginine from the medium.